

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00

FBO-02 NIC-01 OPR-01 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-04

SCS-03 OC-05 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 NEA-09 IO-10 OCL-00

/108 W

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O R 090940Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3070

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

DIRNSA

CONFIDENTIAL ASMARA 0023

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: BOMBING OF USIS LIBRARY IN ASMARA

REF ASMARA 0021 (NOTAL)

1. ON 8 JAN THREE HAND GRENADES THROWN THRU GLASS DOOR OF USIS LIBRARY AT 1900 HRS CLOSING TIME. NO INURIES FROM EXPLOSION.

NIGHT GUARD STILL BEING HELD BY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING.

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2. I RETURNED TO LIBRARY WITH MARINE NCOIC FOR FURTHER IN-

VESTIGATION THIS MORNING. USIS ASST LIBRARIAN, WHO WAS TALKING WITH NIGHT GUARD OUTSIDE LIBRARY AT TIME OF ATTACK, SAID TWO MEN ON FOOT FIRED SHOTS, THREW GRENADES THRU THE DOOR, AND RAN. LIBRARIAN FELL TO THE GROUND AT THE SOUND OF SHOTS, WHILE NIGHT GUARD RAN IN SAME DIRECTION OF MEN WHO THREW GRENADES (LIBRARIAN THOUGHT THEY WERE ROCKS UNTIL HE HEARD EXPLOSION).

3. THIS MORNING I REQUESTED EXTRA POLICE PROTECTION FROM MAJ.

HAGOS, ASMARA POLICE SUPERINTENDENT, FOR ALL USG INSTALLATIONS. USIS HAD ROVING POLICE PROTECTION BEFORE, BUT MAJ. HAGOS WILL ASSIGN SPECIAL GUARD NOW.

4. MAAG ORDNANCE ADVISORS WHO SAW FRAGMENTS OF GRENADES IDENTIFIED THEM AS CHINESE COMMUNIST.

5. ASMARA POPULACE DOES NOT BELIEVE ELF/PLF THREW GRENADES. THEYBELIEVE IT IS WORK OF ARMY COUNTERINSURGENTS, SIMILAR TO MURDERS OF 23 DEC 75. THEY EXPLAIN THAT ELF/PLF USUALLY LEAVE A TIME BOMB IN PLACE AFTER MAIN EXPLOSION AND WOULD HAVE FIRED ONLY ONE SHOT IN AIR TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.

COMMENT:I CANNOT ELIMINATE POSSIBILITY THAT ARMY ELEMENT WOULD ATTACK USG INSTALLATIONS. BOTH PMG AND ELF/PLF BELIEVE USG IS NOT GIVING SUFFICIENT AID TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAUSES.

6. ASMARA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS OPEN TO TRAFFIC. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS REGARDING BOMB AT AIRPORT LAST NIGHT. CIVIL AVIATION PERSONNEL DENY KNOWLEDGE OF A BOMB, BUT MAJ. HAGOS SAID THE BOMB CAUSED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AT AIRPORT.

7. I HELD MEETING THIS MORNING WITH CONGEN STAFF (AMERICAN AND ETHIOPIANS) TO REVIEW SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WHICH ALL PERSONNEL SHOULD TAKE. WILL HOLD MEETING WITH KAGNEW STATION PERSONNEL TOMORROW.

PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ET
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